

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, MY, OEXC (LIM CHONG EU)

SUBJ: PENANG CHIEF MINISTER INTERESTED IN TEACHING SABBATICAL IN US

1. PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, DR. GOH CHENG TEIK, CALLED ON ME SEPT 16 AS INTERMEDIARY FOR PENANG CHIEF MINISTER DR. LIM CHONG EU. DR. LIM, WHO WAS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL LAST JUN FOLLOWING A BOUT OF HEPATITIS, IS HAVING TROUBLE RECUPERATING IN PENANG WHERE HE IS CONSTANTLY IMPORTUNED WITH PROBLEMS OF STATE. HE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SPENDING THE COMING SPRING SEMESTER AT A UNIVERSITY IN THE U.S. AS A "RESOURCE PERSON." FINANCIAL REMUNERATION OR COSTS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL DO NOT APPEAR TO BE AT QUESTION. ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE HOUSING AND SMALL HONORARIUM WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ADEQUATE.

2. DR. LIM, 56 YEARS OLD, IS A MEDICAL GRADUATE OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY, HE SERVED AS A MEDICAL OFFICER IN THE CHINESE NATIONALIST ARMY IN WORLD WAR II. IN ADDITION TO HAVING BEEN CHIEF MINISTER OF PENANG SINCE 1969, HE HAS BEEN A MAJOR FIGURE ON THE MALAYSIAN POLITICAL SCENE SINCE 1955. (HE IS CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE GERAKEN RAKYAT MALAYSIA, A COMPONENT OF THE RULING NATIONAL FRONT.) HE HAS FIRST-HAND EXPERTISE WITH CONTEMPORARY MALAYSIAN AND SINGAPOREAN HISTORY, AND WITH THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT. (FYI: UNDER DR. LIM'S LEADERSHIP PENANG HAS BEEN ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS STORIES IN MALAYSIA.) HE HAS DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF AND CONCERN WITH THE PROBLEMS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE IS ALSO A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THIS EMBASSY.

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3. WHILE DR. LIM IS NOT AN ACADEMIC, HE IS THOUGHTFUL AND
ARTICULATE AND CAN HOLD HIS OWN IN INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES. THE
KIND OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIP WHICH LEE KUAN YEW HAS HAD ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS WOULD BE IDEAL FOR DR. LIM. WOULD BE GRATEFUL
IF DEPT COULD EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES. BOB BARNETT AND BILL BUNDY
MIGHT BE HELPFUL. ALSO CHARLES BALDWIN WHO KNEW DR. LIM WELL
DURING HIS TOUR AS AMBASSADOR HERE WOULD KNOW OF POSSIBILITIES AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.
UNDERHILL

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